



RIPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR 1949.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30036628>

RIPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR 1949.

ELLAND:

M. Pilling & Sons, Ltd., Printers, The Cross.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Ripponden U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

G. A. WILTHER, M.B., B.S., B.Sc.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

J. SHARPLES, C.S.I., A.I.S.E., F.A.B.S.S.

West Riding County Council.

Preventative Medical Services : Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Ripponden district.

Divisional Medical Officer : as above (M.O.H.).

Deputy Divisional Medical Officer : as above (Deputy M.O.H.).

Assistant County Medical Officer : Vacant.

Medical Officer for Ripponden Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic :

CONSTANCE DICKSON, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., L.M.

County Oculist :

R. BURNS, M.B., B.Ch.

School Dental Officer :

J. TODD, L.D.S.

Health Visitor :

A. ALLAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :

B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker :

S. PENNINGTON, B.A. (Soc. Admin.).

Midwife :

F. A. NEAVE, S.C.M.

Home Nurse :

A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N.

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee :

Consultant Staff :

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon :

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Chest Physician :

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden,
August, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the third Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration. Under this arrangement your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Royd, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has, I think, led to a closer integration of all local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year 1949 show a satisfactory trend. The birth rate has increased to 14.9 per 1,000 from last year's level of 14.2, and the death rate has dropped very considerably—from 14.0 to 11.2 per 1,000. What is even more gratifying is that 1949 is yet another in the recent succession of years without a single maternal death. Furthermore, 1949 comes to the fore as being one of the very few years in Ripponden's history with no infant deaths. This absence of mortality in both mothers and infants is a tribute to the work of all branches of the medical and social services. It is a reflection also of the improved economic circumstances of the poorer section of the community which in the past contributed so heavily to the lists of maternal and infant deaths. It is to be hoped that this high standard will be maintained in spite of the uncertain times ahead.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Sharples, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts personal and official.

I have the honour to be ,Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LYONS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

Vital Statistics.

STATISTICS.

Area—13,240 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1949—5,157.

Number of dwelling-houses—1,889.

Rateable Value—£32,911.

Product of a penny rate—£130 10s. 0d.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	73 4	30 1	43 3	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 14.9.
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	3 —	— —	3 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 37.5.
All Deaths	58	31	27	Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population 11.2.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year— Legitimate Illegitimate	— —	— —	— —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) —

Causes of Death in Ripponden U.D.

1949.

Cause of Death.		M.	F.
1	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9	Influenza	1	1
10	Measles	—	—
11	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12	Ac. Infantile Encephalitis	—	—
13	Cancer of the Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	1	—
14	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
15	Cancer of the Breast	—	—
16	Cancer of all other Sites	1	2
17	Diabetes	—	—
18	Intercranial Vascular lesions	3	8
19	Heart Disease	13	10
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	3
21	Bronchitis	1	1
22	Pneumonia	—	—
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—
26	Appendicitis	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	—
28	Nephritis	1	1
29	Puerperal and Post abortion sepsis	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31	Premature Birth	—	—
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury ; Infancy Diseases	—	—
33	Suicide	—	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
35	Other Violent Causes	1	—
36	All other Causes	1	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...		31	27

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1949.

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.
Aggregate West England
Ripponden West Riding and Wales
Urban Riding Urban Admin. (Prov.
District Districts County figures).

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	...	...	...	...	14.9	16.8	17.2	16.7
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated population)-All causes	...	...	...	...	11.2	12.5	12.1	11.7
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)*	...	...	...	...	—	0.8	0.08	* *
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	—	0.32	0.32	0.40
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	0.05	0.05	0.05
Respiratory Diseases‡ (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	...	...	...	...	0.39	1.48	1.44	* *
Cancer	...	...	...	...	0.78	1.88	1.81	1.87
Heart and Circulatory Diseases§	...	...	...	...	5.82	4.36	4.19	* *
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	—	37	38	32
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	—	3.01	3.27	3.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	—	0.15	0.15	0.22
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	0.60	0.68	0.76
Other causes	...	...	...	...	—	0.75	0.83	0.98
Total	...	...	...	...	—

*Combined death rate from smallpox (if any), scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

‡Combined death rate from Bronchitis, pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

§Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.

* *Figures not available.

Principal Vital Statistics for the Year 1949.

Based on the Registrar-General's Figures.

Comparison with neighbouring districts in County Health Division 19.

	Rippon- den U.D.	Tod- morden U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Hepton U.D.
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	14.9	15.9	14.5	16.7	13.2
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated population) -All causes	11.2	17.2	17.7	16.1	14.5
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)*	—	0.05	—	0.16	nil
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	0.26	0.20	0.26	0.25
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	nil	nil	nil
Respiratory Diseases‡ (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.39	2.91	1.87	1.05	1.78
Cancer	0.78	2.45	2.27	2.16	1.78
Heart and Circulatory Diseases§	5.82	4.84	7.20	6.94	6.11
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births	—	52	14	35	38
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	nil	3.28	—	9.43	nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

*Combined death rate from smallpox (if any), scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

‡Combined death rate from Bronchitis, pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

§Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services.

A. Hospitals.

There is no hospital in Ripponden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital, (for aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for Mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. Professional Nursing in the Home.

Since July 1948 the West Riding County Council have assumed full responsibility for both home nursing and midwifery in this area. The home nursing and midwifery services in Ripponden are now carried out by separate nurses. Nurse Neave is now a full-time midwife for the district whilst the home nursing is carried out by Nurse A. Kleindienst.

C. Ambulance Facilities.

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from their hospitals in Halifax.

D. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Zion Congregational Sunday School, Ripponden, every Tuesday afternoon, and is attended by Dr. C. Dickson and the Health Visitor. An Ante-Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held on the afternoon of the first Monday in every month. A School Clinic staffed by the Health Visitor is held each Tuesday morning.

E. Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

F. Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Halifax Isolation Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to Medical practitioners requiring it.

By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's scheme of immunisation.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Ripponden Ante Natal Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	19
Total number of attendances	52

Ripponden Child Welfare Centre.

Number of children attending during the year	148
Total number of attendances	478

Home Visiting of Infants.

Total number of births to Ripponden mothers	80
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	91
Total number of visits to children under 1 year	590
Total number of visits to children aged 1—5 years	550

Day Nursery Accommodation.

The nearest Day Nursery to which Ripponden children may be admitted is at Sowerby Bridge, priority being granted on health grounds.

Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

B. Midwifery Service.

Number of home confinements ...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of hospital confinements	...	...	...	...	...	58

Analgesia.

The Ripponden Midwife is trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and is provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

C. Home Nursing Service—See B, under Section II.

D. Ambulance Service—See C, under Section II.

E. Health Visitor.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope for this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

F. Home Helps.

Owing to the severe shortage of labour in this district it was not possible to recruit any Home Helps during 1949.

G. Care and after Care.

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

H. School Health Service.

The work of this Department in Ripponden during 1949 was restricted because of shortage of medical staff. A considerable number of special cases were, however, examined at the Ripponden and Sowerby Bridge clinics.

I. Immunisation and Vaccination.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Number of Children in Ripponden who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time to 31.12.49.

Age at 31/12/49.								Total
i.e. born								under
in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	15
No. immun.	16	6	91	85	104	290	234	826

Estimated mid-year population : Children under 5—388. Children 5 to 14—763. Total 1151.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of immunisation, 1949.

Began and completed injections 1949 :—

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total 23.														

Total 23.

Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1949 :—

0	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total 5.

SECTION IV.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Summary of Notifications received in year 1949.

Disease.	Total Cases N'fied.
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	9
Diphtheria	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Pneumonia	4
Erysipelas	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3
Measles	7
Whooping Cough	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
	<hr/> 32

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases notified during 1949 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1
10—15	1	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	—	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	—	1

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during 1949.

It will be noted once again with gratification that there were no cases of diphtheria during the year. One regards this as a tribute both to immunisation and to the general state of health of the children of Ripponden.

SECTION V.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Number of Houses in district 1889

Water Supply.

Source of supply—Springs. Distributed by Ripponden U.D.C.

No. of dwellinghouses on public supply (direct to houses 1315

No. of dwellinghouses not on public supply 574

The main supply is from the Council's small reservoir which is fed from an underground spring. During the year extensions of the supply have been made to the new housing estates.

Examination of supplies.

Number of examinations made during year

(a) Chemical—4. Result Satisfactory.

(b) Bacteriological—Nil.

No supplies have been restricted or closed during the year.

Drainage and Sewage.

One extension was made during 1949.

Details of any portion of district still requiring :—

(a) Sewering—Wall Nook area, Barkisland.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—Nil.

Number of houses not connected to sewers 506

Nuisance Inspections.

There were nine nuisances found in 1949 all of which required abatement. Informal notices were served and were complied with in every case.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of privies with open middens	79
No. of Pail or Tub Closets	56
No. of privies with covered middens	103
No. of Water Closets	1455
Waste Water Closets	27
No. of closets, other than Privies reconstructed during 1949 as w.c's	4
No. of additional closets provided for old property in 1949 as :—	
(a) w.c's	5
(b) other	—
No. of closets constructed in 1949 for new houses	
(a) w.c's	106
(b) other	—
Total number of closets in District	1720
Percentage of closets on water carriage system	86%

Grants are made by the Council for conversion of privies, waste water closets and pails to w.c. system.

Milk Supply.

No. of cowkeepers in the district	116
No. registered	116
Total number of cowsheds	175
Total number of milk farms inspected during the year ...	56
Total number of cowsheds inspected during the year ...	79
Number of wholesale traders registered	52
Number of retail milk sellers registered	45
(+ 12 retailer/wholesalers and 7 not producing milk).	

As regards structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk generally, the upward tendency in this direction continues, and the progressive type of farmer is now considering very seriously “T.T” standards. The farming community on the whole appears to be working for better standards of milk production.

No. of licences in force in area for :—

(a) Production of “Tuberculin Tested” milk	9
(b) Production of “Accredited” milk	13
(c) In respect of Pasteurising plants	—

